

**In the
Supreme Court of the United States**

PRISCILLA LEFEBURE,

Petitioner,

v.

SAMUEL D'AQUILLA, 20TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, INDIVIDUALLY
AND IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY,

Respondent.

**On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit**

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AND BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE
LOUISIANA FOUNDATION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT,
NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE,
AND SEXUAL TRAUMA AWARENESS AND RESPONSE
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER**

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**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
AMICI CURIAE BRIEF**

This case presents an issue of considerable constitutional importance, and *amici curiae* the LOUISIANA FOUNDATION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (LaFASA); the NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE (NAESV); and SEXUAL TRAUMA AWARENESS & RESPONSE (STAR) are particularly well-suited to provide insight into the broad implications of the decision below for current and future sexual assault victims across the country. *Amici* timely notified counsel of record for both parties 10 days prior to filing that they intended to submit the enclosed brief. Petitioner Priscilla Lefebure, through her counsel, consented to the filing of this brief. Respondent Samuel D'Aquila, through his counsel, declined to grant such consent. Therefore, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 37.2(b), LaFASA, NAESV, and STAR respectfully move this Court for leave to file the accompanying brief of *amici curiae* in support of Petitioner.

LaFASA, NAESV, and STAR are nonprofit organizations who work to eradicate sexual assault and advocate for sexual assault survivors among policymakers and in the legal system to increase victims' access to justice. (See fuller description at pages 1–2 of the attached brief under “Identification of Amici” and “Interest of Amici”). *Amici* have considerable experience reckoning with sexual assault's disproportionate effect on women, and in particular with the effect that pervasive gender bias has on law enforcement's response to the crime of sexual assault. They are thus uniquely positioned to assist the Court in determining whether to grant *certiorari* to the petition at bar. The brief of *amici curiae* describes how gender bias in law enforcement practices and policies contributes to the underreporting of

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sexual assault, and how, once reported, the crimes are under-investigated and the assailants under-punished. These bias-tainted practices and policies constitute violations of the Equal Protection Clause. *Amici* have access to, and have provided to this Court in their brief, evidence demonstrating that sexual assault is a crime that overwhelmingly victimizes women as compared to men; that sexual assault is underreported, under-investigated, and largely unpunished; and that gender bias pervades the practices and policies of law enforcement. This evidence illustrates how gender-biased law enforcement deprives female victims of sexual assault of equal protection under the law in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The work which LaFASA, NAESV, and STAR do to advocate for sexual assault survivors in the justice system and elsewhere underscores the importance of the legal implications of the decision below for the many victims of sexual assault who are denied equal protection under the law, and it demonstrates that *amici* are well-positioned to present the evidence of that denial for the Court's benefit. Therefore, *amici* seek leave to file the attached brief of *amici curiae* urging the Court to grant the petition.

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Respectfully submitted,

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